

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

19TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, EFFICIENCY AND
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
August 4, 2011

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board - Office of Proceedings
395 East Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 22 2011

Part of
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing in regards to the application filed by the Estate of George M. Hart for abandonment of the entire 7.4-mile rail line of the Stewartstown Railroad Company in York County, Pennsylvania (STB Docket No. AB-1071). My office has been contacted by a non-profit organization, the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, regarding efforts to preserve this rail line for future use. By way of this letter, I ask that you give this matter full and fair consideration.

The York region was named the fastest growing metropolitan area in the Northeast by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2008. Funding limitations at the federal and state levels have hampered efforts to maintain an infrastructure network able to keep pace with this rapid population growth.

Given the continued increase in regional truck traffic, local officials have recently sought new options for the transportation of essential goods and services, including rail freight. The York County Commissioners recently leased the Northern Central Rail Line to a non-profit organization, Steam into History, which has committed to facilitating the movement of rail freight between the Stewartstown Railroad and a connecting rail line. This project could help create jobs and expand economic development opportunities for current businesses and proposed industrial areas along the corridor.

While I certainly understand the Estate of George M. Hart's desire to settle the debt owed to it, the Friends of Stewartstown Railroad assert that the recent developments described above dispute the notion that the Stewartstown Railroad lacks a viable connection to the interstate rail network. The Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad have begun a capital campaign to engage the community in an effort to settle the debt in question.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If there is any additional assistance that I can provide you in the review of this application, please do not hesitate to call me at (717) 600-1919. Best wishes!

Sincerely,

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS
Member of Congress
19th District, Pennsylvania

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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

STB Docket No. AB - 1071

**STEWARTSTOWN RAILROAD COMPANY
ADVERSE ABANDONMENT
YORK COUNTY, PA**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date the Protest Letter of Todd R. Platts is being served by first class mail, postage prepaid at York, Pennsylvania, addressed as follows:

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The Honorable Stanley E. Saylor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
P. O. Box 202094
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BARLEY SNYDER LLC

August 22, 2011

By: /s/Alex E. Snyder

Alex E. Snyder

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